

Agency Name:	Public Service Commission		
Agency Code:	R040	Section:	72



**Fiscal Year FY 2021-2022**

**Agency Budget Plan**

## **FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY**

<b>OPERATING REQUESTS</b>  <b>(FORM B1)</b>	<b>For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

<b>NON-RECURRING REQUESTS</b>  <b>(FORM B2)</b>	<b>For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

<b>CAPITAL REQUESTS</b>  <b>(FORM C)</b>	<b>For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

<b>PROVISOS</b>  <b>(FORM D)</b>	<b>For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

<b>PRIMARY CONTACT:</b>  <b>SECONDARY CONTACT:</b>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
	Virginia "Jenny" Butler	(803) 896-5100	virginia.butler@psc.sc.gov
	Jocelyn Boyd	(803) 896-5100	jocelyn.boyd@psc.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2021-2022 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

<b>SIGN/DATE:</b>  <b>TYPE/PRINT NAME:</b>	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>

*This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.*

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BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Administration - Personal Services & Employer Contributions	0	0	7,831	0	7,831	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Administration - Other Operating	0	0	461,429	0	461,429	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			0	0	469,260	0	469,260	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	1
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Administration - Personal Services & Employer Contributions
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$7,831</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$7,831</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	0.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This funding request supports all strategies listed in the Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of the Commission's FY 2019-20 Accountability Report.</p>
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	<p>The Commission's employees would be the recipient of the funds through salary adjustments. The recipients of the Commission's Employer Contributions are the federal government, the state retirement systems, and vendors and state agencies</p>
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**FUNDS**

providing various forms of insurance (health, dental, life, unemployment, and worker's compensation) on behalf of the Commission's employees.

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF  
REQUEST**

The Commission is requesting an increase for Personal Services for fiscal year 2022 in the amount of \$81,024 for the 2% General Increase not included in the Sine Die budget for the Public Service Commission. The 2% General Increase of \$83,725 consisted of \$64,672 for personal services and \$19,052 for employer contributions. The variance between the 2% personal services and employer contribution amounts and this personal services and employer contributions request represents an alignment between personal services and employer contributions, as explained further in the following paragraph.

The Commission is requesting a reduction of (\$73,193) in funding for Employer Contributions for FY2022. Based on the FY20-21 Employer Contributions Rate Table provided by the Executive Budget Office, the Commission does not require the same appropriations as FY2020-21 to meet its obligations.

The request for an increase in Personal Services of \$81,024 and a decrease in Employer Contributions of (\$73,193) is a net increase of \$7,831.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

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## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	2
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Administration - Other Operating
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$0</b>  <b>Federal: \$0</b>  <b>Other: \$461,429</b>  <b>Total: \$461,429</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	0.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This funding request supports all strategies listed in the Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of the Commission's FY 2019-2020 Accountability Report. The Commission requested IT equipment associated strategies have been included in the Commission's IT Data Collection plan for FY2021-22 submitted in accordance with Proviso 117.112.</p>
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">The recipients of the Commission's Other Operating funds are contractors and</div>
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**RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS**

vendors supplying necessary goods and services, including other state agencies such as the Department of Administration (IT services and other administrative services) and SC Educational Television (video streaming services).

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

The Commission is requesting an increase in the amount of \$461,429 for Other Operating expenditures for fiscal year 2022 to address certain Energy Freedom Act (Act 62 of 2019) issues such as compensation of qualified, independent third-party consultants and experts hired pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20 (I).

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

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## **FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST**

<b>NUMBER</b>	NEW
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*Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").*

<b>TITLE</b>	Law Enforcement
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*Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.*

<b>BUDGET PROGRAM</b>	Administration
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*Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.*

<b>RELATED BUDGET REQUEST</b>	
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*Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2021-2022? If so, cite it here.*

<b>REQUESTED ACTION</b>	Add
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*Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.*

<b>OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED</b>	None
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*Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?*

<b>SUMMARY &amp; EXPLANATION</b>	<p>Currently, the Commission is unable to hire law enforcement officers, except through a contractual arrangement. Considering the business of utility regulation that the Commission conducts, as well as safety precautions for the protection of Commissioners and staff, the Commission has determined it necessary to have law enforcement officers present at all hearings, including public night hearings which can be heard in counties throughout the state, as well as on the premises on a permanent basis.</p> <p>Prior to Act No. 318 of 2006, the Commission pursuant to S.C. statutory authority maintained and managed a law enforcement department (Section 58-3-310 et seq).</p>
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*Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.*

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time as the Commission currently has a contract for security services with an outside company.

*Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.*

## **PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT**

The Public Service Commission is authorized to hire law enforcement officers commissioned by the Governor upon recommendation of the Public Service Commission. The Commission may remove a law enforcement officer if it finds that the law enforcement officer is unfit for the position. Each law enforcement officer shall execute a bond with a licensed surety company in the amount of not less than ten thousand dollars. The bond may be individual, schedule, or blanket, and shall be approved by the Attorney General. The premiums on the bonds shall be paid by the Commission from appropriated funds.

*Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.*





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## FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

<b>TITLE</b>	Live Streaming with Skype and WebEx Capabilities for Commission Hearings, Business Meetings, and Public Interviews for Qualified, Independent Third-Party Consultants or Experts
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS</b>	<div>Live streaming with Skype and WebEx capabilities for Commission hearings, business meetings and public interviews for qualified, independent third-party consultants or experts saves businesses and citizens time as well as cost of traveling to and from the Commission office located in Columbia. The savings will vary depending on how far a business or citizen would have to travel to attend a hearing, business meeting or public interview.</div>
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*What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b> <table> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Repeal or revision of regulations.</td></tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.</td></tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.</td></tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Other</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.								
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other								

<b>METHOD OF CALCULATION</b>	<div>The method of determining the savings would be the rate of 57.5 cents per automobile mile plus the hourly rate of the business employee or citizen multiplied by the hours traveling to and from the hearing/meeting.</div>
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*Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.*

<b>REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES</b>	N/A
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*Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?*

<b>REDUCTION OF REGULATION</b>	N/A
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*Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?*

The travel cost burden to businesses and citizens are being eliminated so more businesses and citizens can listen to and participate in, as needed, hearings, business meetings and public interviews for qualified, independent third-party consultants or experts. The result is that more businesses and citizens can be informed and/or participate in Commission proceedings. With the Covid-19 pandemic onset in March 2020, the Commission had to immediately cancel a night hearing scheduled for 03/12. With another night hearing already scheduled for 03/19, the following week, the Commission was able to allow participation from the public by conference lines. For the 03/19 night hearing, there were 50 audio conference attendees who called in to testify (22 witnesses actually testified along with two political officials' statements). The night hearing held on 06/22 had 47 audio conference attendees who called in to testify (32 witnesses actually testified along with two officials' statements). Live stream data is shown in the table below:

	Total Events (Live)	Total Events (On-Demand)	Monthly Total
July 2019	206	561	767
August 2019	670	70	740
September 2019	389	10	399
October 2019	1,878	35	1,913
November 2019	485	85	570

## SUMMARY

November 2019	485	85	570
December 2019	724	47	771
January 2020	351	24	375
February 2020	804	28	832
March 2020	753	24	777
April 2020	336	10	346
May 2020	545	14	559
June 2020	530	37	567
<b>FY 19-20 TOTALS</b>	<b>7,671</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>8,616</b>

The "Live" sessions totals include replays, including "play" and "pause", of the original events. The "On-Demand" sessions are the livestream events that were viewed after the conclusion of the live event.

The Commission was already live streaming hearings and business meetings prior to Covid-19. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commission began holding virtual hearings via Skype in March. The number of Virtual Events held between March and June is shown in the following schedule:

<b>Virtual Commission Events during COVID-19 Pandemic</b>		
	<b>Virtual Commission Meetings</b>	<b>Virtual Hearings</b>
<b>March 2020</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>April 2020</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>May 2020</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>June 2020</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>

There were actually 140 persons participating virtually in PSC meetings and hearings for FY20 as shown in the chart below. The bulk of those participating virtually occurred between March and June 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. These numbers also do not include those persons watching the live streams which is shown in the first schedule above.

The Commission is currently adding WebEx as another platform for participation in the Commission's business affairs and will continue to seek opportunities to enhance participation capabilities.

Virtual Participants	Hearing Examiner	Witnesses/Presenters	Counsel/ Rep's
July '19	1		
Aug '19		5	
Sept '19			
Oct '19	2		
Nov '19			
Dec '19			
Jan '20			
Feb '20	1	2	1
Mar '20		25	2
Apr '20		2	19
May '20		8	16
June '20		42	14
	4	84	52

*Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?*

